FOX RIVER CURRENT

September/October 1999 Vol. 2, No. 4 Update from the Lower Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership

Fort James Corporation Offers Extra $2 Million to Ensure Completion of Second Fox River Pilot Dredging Project

By Kelly Mella, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Fort James Corporation announced in early August that it will pitch in an additional $2 million to ensure that the latest pilot cleanup project is completed as planned, without severe cutbacks in the amount of contaminated sediment removed from the river. Fort James is a member of the Fox River Group of paper mills potentially responsible for contamination of the river with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

Said Dan Platkowski, Senior Vice President of Manufacturing for Fort James, "This project was designed to provide us with important information about the potential impact of dredging on the Fox River. Any curtailment of the project would mean less data available to us – data that we need to chart the course for the remediation of the river. Our decision means that the project can be completed as planned, and that benefits everyone in the community."

The project is taking place at a 9-acre segment of the river known as Sediment Management Unit (SMU) 56/57, located downstream of the De Pere Dam about three miles from the river's mouth. This location hosts some of the Fox River's highest concentrations of PCBs.

Originally, project plans called for removal of enough contaminated sediments to fill a landfill with a capacity of 80,000 cubic yards, but rising costs forced project managers to cut estimates nearly in half, down to 45,000 to 50,000 cubic yards. Because of Fort James' contribution, however, the project can now move ahead as originally planned.

Bruce Baker, Deputy Administrator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), said, "We're very pleased with Fort James' decision to come forward with additional resources for the pilot dredging project at SMU 56/57. Their cooperation not only ensures that we can complete this project properly, but also ensures that we can keep the cleanup of the entire Fox River on track."

Dredging began in late August. Plans are to complete work at the site by Thanksgiving.

In related news, DNR recently decided to resume dredging of PCB-contaminated sediments at Deposit N near Kimberly. Deposit N is the site of the first cooperative cleanup effort, which began last fall and was prematurely shut down by cold weather. Construction and dredging have begun at the site, and work is expected to finish near the end of October. Sediments currently remaining in Deposit N contain PCB concentrations of less than 50 parts per million and will be disposed of in Winnebago County's Sunnyview landfill.

For more information, contact Bruce Baker, DNR Water Division Deputy Administrator, (608) 266-1902.

Fish and Wildlife Service to Release Report on PCB Impacts to Green Bay Area Recreational Fishing

By Larry Dean, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

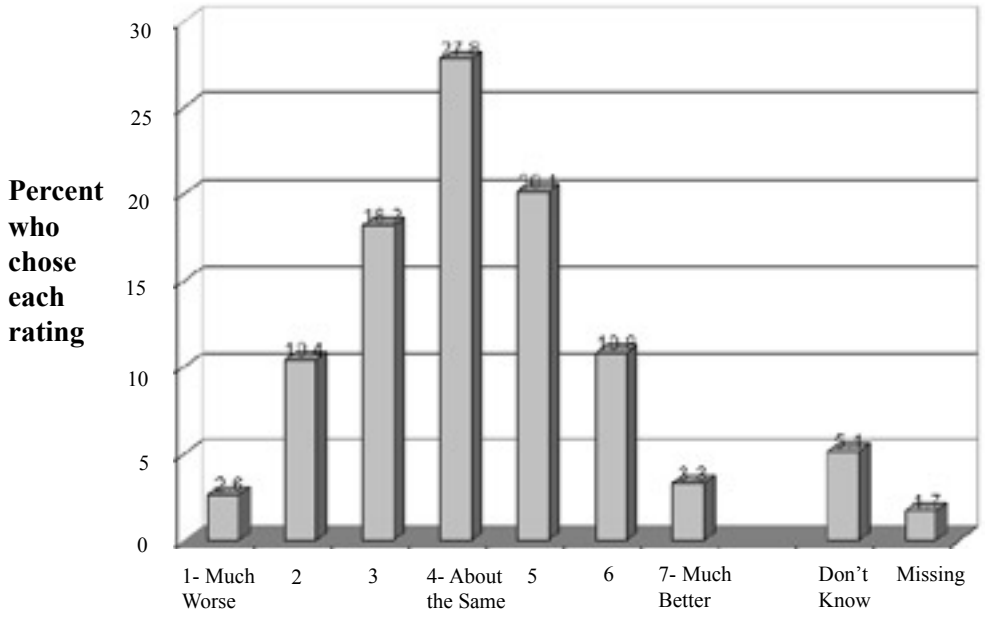
In the Fall of 1999, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will release the results of its study on the impacts of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) advisories on recreational fishing in Green Bay and its tributaries, including the Lower Fox River. This report is part of the Fox River & Green Bay Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) being conducted by the Federal Government and two Native American Tribes. This report will be available for review on the Internet at http://www.fws.gov/r3pao, and by appointment at the Reading Room at 1015 Challenger Court, Green Bay, WI (call Joe Moniot at 920-465-7408 to arrange an appointment). In addition, FWS will hold a public meeting to describe how PCBs impair people's use and enjoyment of recreational fishing, and to hear public feedback on the report.

In 1998, FWS completed a survey of over 3,000 anglers with Wisconsin fishing licenses. The survey asked detailed questions of 640 anglers active in fishing Green Bay and its tributaries — those anglers most aware of the impacts of PCBs on their Green Bay fishing experience. The survey showed that overall, Green Bay anglers feel that fishing in the Bay is about the same quality as in other locations (see Figure 1). The survey also showed that Green Bay anglers are aware of the fish consumption advisories for the Bay (85 percent had heard or read about the advisories) and they place a high priority on PCB removal and water quality improvements in Green Bay as compared to other actions that might be taken to improve fishing at Green Bay and at other locations (see Table 1).

Considering actions to improve fishing specifically in Green Bay, removing PCBs again tops the list for survey respondents. They rank PCB removal as very important, while they rank adding more parks and boat launch facilities as somewhat to not very important (see Table 2). Finally, respondents indicate that fish consumption advisories have lead them to change both their fishing behavior and fishing enjoyment (see Table 3).

Figure 1

Rating the quality of Green Bay fishing compared to other places the respondent fishes (Q1, mail survey)



FWS will use these study results to help them propose restoration projects which best address the public's continuing recreational fishing losses, as well as to calculate the annual economic damages from recreational fishing losses related to PCB contamination. These activities will function with the rest of the NRDA to address additional public losses beyond recreational fishing.

Once the Intergovernmental partners finalize their Record of Decision under the Superfund program, the natural resource trustees will determine the type, amount, and cost of restoration projects required to recoup PCB-related natural resource losses over the years. The Restoration and Compensation Determination Plan and the Report of Assessment will note this determination. Both documents will be published for public review soon after the Record of Decision.

FWS is releasing all of its Fox River and Green Bay NRDA determinations this year, including reports on PCB release and pathway, bird injury, fish injury, economic damages, and restoration projects. The Intergovernmental parties hope that the combined efforts of the NRDA, Superfund, and the State/Company Agreement will provide the incentives and means to clean up and restore the Fox River and Green Bay.

Table 1
Mean importance level of potential actions to improve the quality of Wisconsin fishing (Q13, telephone survey)
(1 = not at all important, 2 = somewhat important, 3 = very important)

Actions	Fished Green Bay in 1998 (N = 906)
Clean up contaminants so that none of the fish caught in Green Bay are contaminated	2.83
Improve the water clarity in Green Bay	2.51
Increase average catch of pan fish like yellow perch on Green Bay	1.95
Provide additional public boat launches on inland water	1.96
Increase average catch of sport fish like trout, salmon, bass and walleye on Green Bay	1.88
Provide additional public boat launches on Green Bay	1.89
Make existing boat ramps around Green Bay free	1.80
Reduce the cost of fishing licenses	1.69
Reduce the cost of launching a boat on inland lakes	1.70

Table 2
Mean importance rating of potential actions to improve the recreational fishery on Green Bay
(1 = not at all important, 3 = somewhat important, 5 = very important)

Action	Mean Rating (640 GB anglers)
Cleaning up PCBs so fish consumption advisories can be reduced or eliminated	4.43
Increasing water clarity	3.69
Increasing catch rates	3.24
Adding more shoreline parks, nature centers, and trails	2.65
Adding more boat launch facilities	2.39

Table 3
In response to the existing fish consumption advisories for the waters of Green Bay, do you do any of the following? (640 Green Bay Anglers)

	Yes	No
spend fewer days fishi the waters of Green Bay	30%	68%
change the *places I fish* on the waters of Green Bay	31%	68%
change the *species I fish for* on the waters of Green Bay	23%	75%
change the *species of fish I keep to eat* from the waters of Green Bay	45%	53%
change the *size of fish I keep to eat* from the waters of Green Bay	47%	50%
change the way Green Bay fish are *cleaned or prepared*	45%	52%
change the way Green Bay fish *are cooked* at my house	24%	73%

EPA Submits Preliminary Recommendation to EPA National Remedy Review Board

By Bri Bill, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) met with EPA's National Remedy Review Board in late July to present a preliminary cleanup plan for the Lower Fox River. The Board, made up of some 20 senior management, technical and policy staff from EPA Headquarters and 10 regional offices, was created in 1996 to provide an internal peer review of proposed cleanups that are expected to cost at least $30 million.

Since June, when EPA and DNR submitted an informational package, the Board has been reviewing the package for cost effectiveness and for consistency with Superfund law, regulations and technical and policy guidance at comparable sites. Written summaries of key issues prepared by the potentially responsible parties, the Technical Assistance Grant recipient (Clean Water Action Council), DNR, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) were also submitted.

EPA Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons said, "The material submitted to the Board for review is not, by any means, a final EPA plan for the Fox River, nor does it mean the Fox will be designated as an official Superfund site. However, for the purposes of an internal review, the material submitted to the Board does include a plausible cleanup plan for consideration."

The EPA regional office expects the Board to provide advisory recommendations within the next month. EPA and its intergovernmental partners will review and consider the Board's recommendations during the development of the formal cleanup proposal, called the Proposed Plan. The Plan will be presented to the public in early 2000, in conjunction with a 60-day minimum comment period and several public meetings.

For additional information, contact Bri Bill, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at 1-800-621-8431 or consult the web site at www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/nrrb/index/htm.

PCBs, Landfill Disposal and Your Health

By Chuck Warzecha, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services

Landfilling of sediments contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) has been and continues to be part of the pilot dredging projects at Deposit N near Kimberly, and at Sediment Management Unit (SMU) 56/57 near the De Pere Dam. Landfill disposal is also being considered for the total river cleanup. This article will explain why landfills are considered safe places to dispose of PCB-contaminated materials.

Considering the strong public health concerns surrounding PCBs in Fox River sediments, the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) understands why people might question the safety of putting PCBs in a landfill, especially one located close to their communities. Recently, some Fox River Valley physicians took a formal stand against the disposal of PCB-contaminated sediments in area landfills. Their strong statement supports the State's opinion that PCBs are a significant public health threat. It also shows the need to provide to physicians and other community members additional information about the safety of landfill disposal of PCB-contaminated sediments.

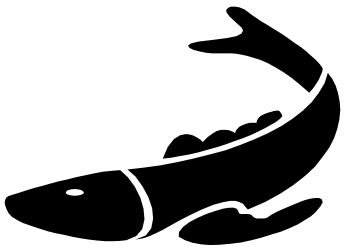
Health professionals helped to evaluate landfilling as a possible way to dispose of contaminated sediments. They did so by considering the many ways that people could potentially be exposed to PCBs through landfill disposal. These included 1) contact with sediment if accidentally spilled during transport; 2) exposure to the small amount of PCBs that may volatilize (evaporate) before sediments are covered in the landfill; and 3) release of PCBs from the landfill into groundwater used for drinking water.

Concentrations of PCBs in sediments are not high enough to cause health problems from occasional human contact. Although there is concern about volatilization of PCBs and their travel through the air, it is known that PCBs are not very volatile. Instead, they tend to stay firmly attached to sediment and not evaporate. The very small amount that could potentially volatilize during dredging and disposal would not constitute a health threat, even to people very near the dredging project. As an added precaution, air monitoring will be carried out during the dredging of SMU 56/57.

Just as they are very unlikely to evaporate into the air, PCBs are also very unlikely to move into and with groundwater. Today's landfills, unlike those of the past, are designed to hold contaminants that, unlike PCBs, move easily with water. In modern landfills like those used to hold the sediments dredged from the Fox River, any liquid that forms from the breakdown of wastes, or from rain or snow, is collected within the landfill and treated to remove contaminants. However, even near our older landfills PCBs have not threatened drinking water wells.

PCB levels in fish can be up to a million times higher than they are in sediment. When people eat a considerable amount of PCB-contaminated fish, the exposure becomes a serious health concern. This is the primary reason the same sediments are a problem in the river but not in a landfill.

DHFS and the other intergovernmental agency partners strongly agree with concerned health professionals and community members about the hazards associated with PCBs. Staff from DHFS plan to meet with physicians in the Fox River Valley to discuss health concerns related to PCBs. At that time, we will also discuss the safety of using landfilling as a disposal method.



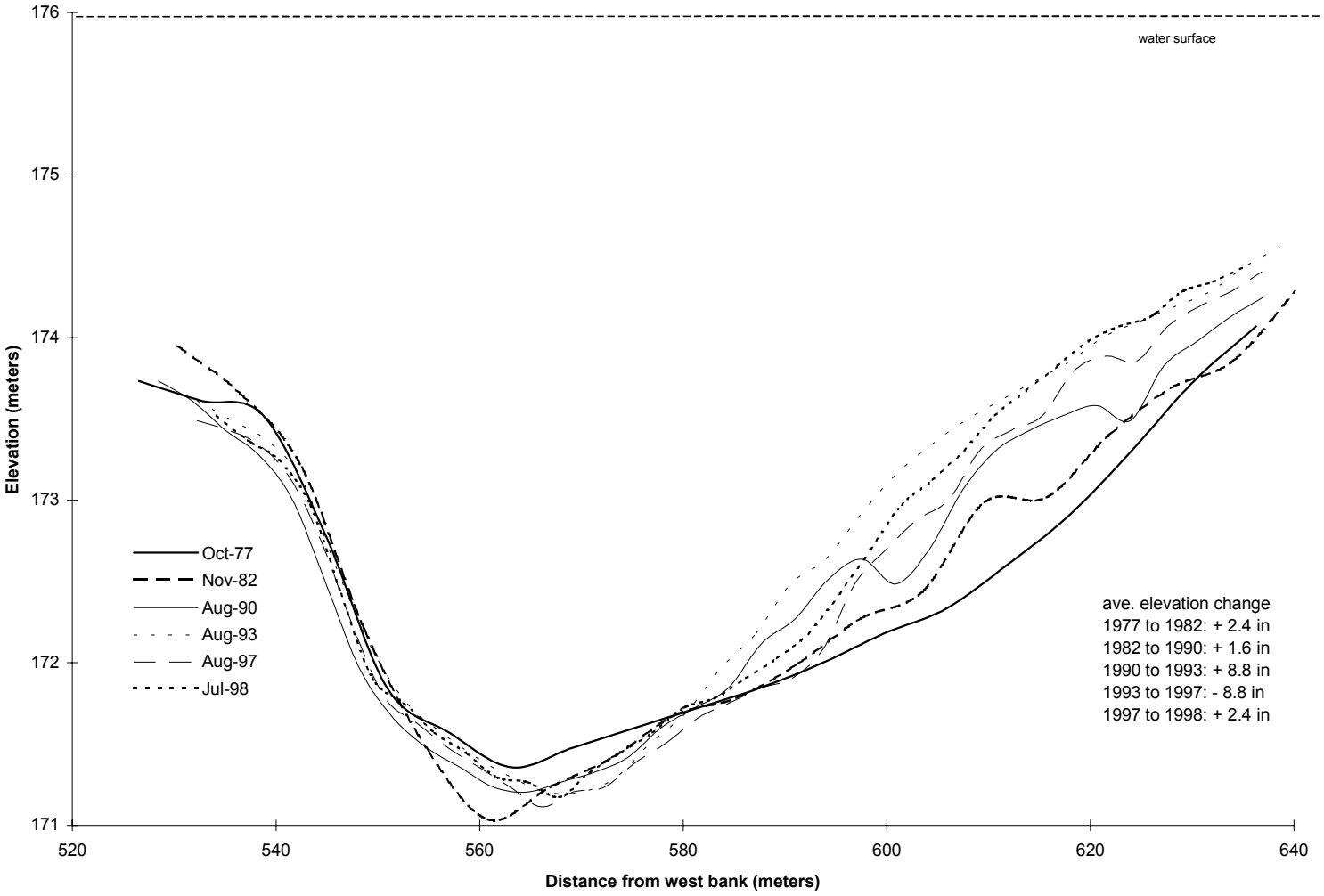
DNR Report Shows River Bed Continuously Changing

By Corinne Billings & Kelly Mella, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

A recent Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) report shows that water currents in the Lower Fox River continuously reshape the river bed through two processes: erosion (or scouring), which removes sediment from the bed; and deposition (or filling), by which sediments settle onto the bed. The report — a technical memo released on July 23, 1999, and entitled "Quantification of Lower Fox River Sediment Bed Elevation Dynamics through Direct Observations" — indicates that in the short-term (months), average sediment bed elevation changes range from a decrease of 11 inches to an increase of 14 inches. Long-term average elevation changes (over years and decades) range from a decrease of 40 inches to an increase of 18 inches.

See **DNR report**, *page 7*

Example of sediment elevation changes in the Lower Fox River



This graph, using Army Corps of Engineers data, shows the sediment elevation for a cross-section of the Lower Fox River at Voyager Park in De Pere. Each line on the graph represents the elevation (meters) of the sediment at a certain point in time, starting October 1977 and ending July 1998. From 1990 to 1993, the sediment bed near Voyager Park increased in elevation by 8.8 inches (on average). However, it decreased in elevation by 8.8 inches (on average) from 1993 to 1997.

DNR report *from page 6*

The report quantified the changes in the sediment bed of the Lower Fox River between 1977 and 1998. DNR relied on data from three sources: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Geological Survey. These agencies collected river bed elevation data by using a variety of sonar devices, which bounce sound waves off the sediment bed, and survey equipment, including satellite global positioning systems (GPS). To ensure that they were measuring only changes caused by natural scouring and filling, DNR focused on areas where no dredging had occurred within the study period.

The report shows that scouring and filling can occur simultaneously in adjacent sections of the river. For example, at a cross-section of the Lower Fox near Voyager Park in De Pere, water currents scoured sediments from the river channel and decreased elevation there, while at the same time depositing sediments and increasing elevation on the river edge.

Whether a section of the river undergoes scouring or filling at any given time is determined by differences in local water velocities, which are caused by differences in channel width and depth and sediment loads. As water flows through wider sections of the river, the current slows and sediments deposit. Conversely, as the river narrows (like it does in the area of the De Pere wastewater treatment plant), water speeds increase and sediments erode.

What does this mean for the polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the Lower Fox River? Because sediments are continuously being scoured from one location and deposited in another, and because sediment bed elevations are constantly changing, PCBs buried in the top few inches of sediment are not isolated from the rest of the ecosystem. In fact, sediments containing approximately 600 pounds of PCBs are moving downstream each year. Once PCBs reach Green Bay and Lake Michigan, cleanup is no longer feasible, and PCBs will continue to travel through the food chain, harming wildlife and humans for a century or more.

Dredging: Long-term Benefits Outweigh Short-term Impacts

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

When the topic of dredging comes up in the Fox Valley, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) representatives are often asked to "show me the data." Fortunately, there is a lot of data to show, including a list of successful dredging projects in Wisconsin and other EPA Region 5 states. Although officials have not yet selected a cleanup method for the Fox River, dredging is a technology getting serious consideration because of its positive results.

Results from recent environmental dredging projects demonstrate that minor short-term impacts are outweighed by long-term environmental benefits. According to EPA Remedial Project Manager Jim Hahnenberg, the benefits include the potential to remove a great deal of contaminated sediment and to see significant reductions in contaminant concentrations in the remaining sediment, as well as in surface water and fish.

Hahnenberg says there are three types of dredging: mechanical, hydraulic and pneumatic. "For environmental evaluation, a better distinction is 'dry' versus 'wet' dredging," he explained. "Dry dredging involves removing most water from the area, followed by mechanical dredging which is an excavation operation similar to conventional earth moving. Wet dredging projects [which include hydraulic and/or pneumatic processes] are done under water."

Results often differ between the two. Both approaches remove sediment, but dry dredging commonly results in a more complete removal. This is because sediment excavated in a dry process is easier to see, sample and move. Also, water is not flowing through and over the removal area during the dredging process, as is the case with wet dredging.

Hahnenberg acknowledged that wet dredging brings with it some potential for short-term release of contaminants, because sediment may "resuspend" (move back into the water column) during dredging. However, these types of releases yield only a fraction

See **Dredging**, *page 8*

Dredging *from page 7*

of the ongoing exposures to contaminants caused by natural erosion where contaminated sediment is not dredged. Hahnenberg, who has a geology background, said this is a common topic for debate. "Some parties place undue emphasis on short-term and minor environmental exposures rather than on the long-term contaminant concentration reductions consistently achieved in sediments, surface water and living organisms after dredging," he said.

In 10 dry-dredging EPA projects, virtually all polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were successfully removed from the sediment, according to Hahnenberg. Wet-dredging projects achieved slightly lower results, but environmental outcomes were still "excellent," he said. "The data available from these projects show average contaminant concentrations 66 times lower in sediment and two to eight times lower in surface water and fish," he continued. "Based on trends observed after dredging, monitoring over longer periods of time will likely show even greater reductions."

As with any environmental cleanup, cost is a consideration. According to Hahnenberg, there is no set cost for dredging. Costs are influenced by such factors as types of contaminants to be removed, wet versus dry dredging, and sediment treatment and disposal techniques. The volume of sediment to be removed is also important. Hahnenberg concluded, "Although removing greater volumes increases total costs, economies of scale on larger projects also give you lower unit costs. In other words, as projects increase in size, the cost of removal and treatment and/or disposal per cubic yard of contaminated sediment goes down."

Dredging projects in Region 5 states:

1. Sheboygan River and Harbor, WI
2. Ruck Pond, WI
3. Bryant Mill Pond, MI
4. Willow Run, MI
5. Ford Monroe, MI
6. Black River, MI
7. Shiawassee River, MI
8. Manistique Harbor, MI
9. Waukegan Harbor, IL
10. Fraleigh Creek (formerly the Unnamed Tributary), OH

For further information on these dredging projects, contact Jim Hahnenberg at (312) 353-4213; 1-800-621-8431; or hahnenberg.james@epa.gov.

National Academies Committee Visits the Fox Valley

By Bri Bill, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

During the week of September 27, 1999, a National Academies (formerly known as the National Academy of Sciences) committee charged with reviewing issues associated with sediment remediation will visit the Fox Valley to hear from residents, scientists, government officials, and others about their views on the Fox River cleanup.

As a result of a congressional mandate in 1998, the National Academies committee is evaluating the availability, effectiveness, costs and effects of various technologies used for cleaning up sediments contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). To help in this effort, the committee will be reviewing data from PCB-contaminated sites around the country. Ultimately, the study will produce a framework for evaluating different approaches to cleaning up PCB-contaminated sediments. Such a framework will help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and others responsible for sediment remediation improve their ability to make sound choices in selecting and implementing appropriate cleanup technologies.

A public meeting for Fox Valley residents to speak with the committee is tentatively scheduled for September 27 at the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay.

The Academies has posted information about the study — "Assessment of Risks from Remediation of PCB-Contaminated Sediments" — on its web site: www.nas.edu. Look for the project title "Remediation of PCB-Contaminated Sediments" under the "Current Projects" portion of the web site.

EPA Sponsors Superfund Workshop

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

In response to requests from Fox Valley citizens and officials, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held three workshops July 26, 27 and 28 in Green Bay and Appleton to explain the Superfund process.

EPA Instructors Noemi Emeric and Dion Novak lead the sessions entitled, "Introduction to Superfund, A Public Awareness Workshop." Using interactive exercises and informative lectures, they walked participants through the general Superfund process. Without addressing specific issues related to the Fox River, Emeric and Novak, who have teamed up several times to lead similar workshops, covered topics such as assessing, studying and cleaning up Superfund sites. They also touched on the National Priorities List, emergency actions and community involvement.

EPA's Noemi Emeric assists attendees with a training exercise.

According to Emeric, an EPA community involvement coordinator for five years, the information was applicable to any Superfund-related cleanup project. "Participants learn the Superfund process from the point at which they can be involved as well as general environmental vocabulary information," she explained.

Fifty people attended the free workshops. In addition to Fox Valley residents, participants included representatives from environmental groups, local governments, and chambers of commerce. The three Fox Valley workshops covered the same material; however, one of those held in Appleton lasted longer (six hours as compared to four hours). "The six-hour workshop was more in depth," said Emeric. "There were more community involvement and Superfund exercises, but all workshops involved role playing."

If organizations in the Fox Cities would like EPA to offer a shortened version of these workshops, they can be tailored to meet specific needs. To request that a Superfund workshop be presented to your group, contact Community Involvement Coordinators Bri Bill, (312) 353-6466, or Susan Pastor, (312) 353-1325. They may also be reached toll free at 1-800-621-8431.

A Fox River Cleanup Calendar

Recent Activities:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service NRDA (Natural Resource Damage Assessment)

- April 30, 1999: Release of Walleye Injury Report
- May 3, 1999: Release of Bird Injury Report
- May 10, 1999: Public Meeting on Bird Injury Report
- Late Summer, 1999: Release of PCB Release and Pathways Report

Cleanup/Pilot Projects

- June 30, 1999: EPA submits informational package to EPA Remedy Review Board*
- July 27-28, 1999: EPA and DNR meet with EPA Remedy Review Board*
- July, 1999: Site preparations begin at SMU 56/57 and Deposit N
- Late Summer, 1999: Dredging begins at SMU 56/57; Dredging resumes at Deposit N

Misc.

- July 26-28, 1999: EPA holds Introduction to Superfund workshops*
- July, 1999: EPA Headquarters issues surveys to residents about community outreach*
- Week of August 23, 1999: EPA Headquarters holds focus groups about community outreach*
- August, 1999: DNR releases NRDA Plan

Upcoming Milestones:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service NRDA

- Early Fall, 1999: Release of Fish Injury Report
- Early Fall, 1999: Public Meeting(s) on Pathways/Fish Injury Reports
- Mid-October, 1999: Release of Economic Damages Report
- Winter, 1999: Public Meeting on Economic Damages Report
- Winter, 1999: Release of Restoration Projects
- Winter, 1999: Public Meeting on Restoration Projects

Cleanup/Pilot Projects

- October, 1999 (tentative): Remedy Review Board issues Advisory Recommendations
- Late Fall, 1999: Dredging completed at SMU 56/57 and Deposit N
- Spring/Summer, 2000: Final RI/FS and Proposed Plan issued for public comment
- Fall, 2000: EPA signs Record of Decision outlining cleanup remedy

Misc.

- September 27, 1999: National Academies Public Meeting*

* See accompanying article

Profile on...Marty McHugh

Attorney turned trustee protects interests of Fox River, Green Bay natural resources
By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Martin "Marty" McHugh was one of those rare students who knew early in his college career what he wanted to do with his life. As an undergraduate student at Rutgers University in his home state of New Jersey, McHugh had the flexibility to create his own degree to cover the overlap of topics he wanted to pursue. His bachelor's degree of economics and environmental studies laid the foundation for a career in public service that would utilize both.

After graduating from Rutgers in 1982, McHugh moved on to New Jersey's Seton Hall University where he earned a Law Degree in 1985. With his education complete, he immediately went to work for the State of New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection. He served as in-house counsel for five years working on fishing and hunting issues, air pollution enforcement, pesticide matters and permitting cases. He also negotiated Superfund cleanups for State-lead sites.

It was during his tenure in the state's Attorney General's office that his career began to take off in a direction that even he would not have been able to predict. On New Year's Day 1990, the Exxon Bayway Refinery spilled about 567,000 gallons of fuel oil into the New York/New Jersey Harbor. A year later, the young attorney, along with representatives from the State of New York, Department of Interior and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), was able to get Exxon to plead guilty to negligence and agree to a $10 million settlement earmarked for restoring the damaged resources.

"It was the first time we pursued natural resource damages under CERCLA,"(Superfund law) McHugh explained. "We were able to get six governments (federal, state and local agencies) together and come up with a decent settlement."

Coincidentally, while that negotiation process proceeded, five more spills (one million gallons) occurred in the same harbor in a seven-month period. "The silver lining of all these spills was the governments' realization of the variety of natural resources that thrived in this urban harbor that had been written off by many of us," McHugh said. "We became aware of the importance of these resources and the need to protect and restore them on behalf of the public."

Marty McHugh

In 1993, McHugh accepted a position heading up the New Jersey Office of Natural Resources. At the same time, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) regional office in Chicago asked to have NOAA represented in its Office of Superfund. In 1997, McHugh joined a NOAA trustee representative in EPA's Chicago Superfund office to give technical advice during the remedial investigation and feasibility study process, as well as to represent NOAA's natural resource trustee interests.

McHugh was then designated to work for NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration as a natural resource trustee liaison. "I'm 'on loan' from the State of New Jersey," he explained. "NOAA parked me here (Chicago) to do outreach to the other trustees, including Tribes, and to improve trustee coordination with cleanup programs."

He was quickly assigned to do outreach on the Lower Fox River project. "The Fox is different because we're dealing with material discharged many years

See **Marty McHugh**, *page 12*

Fox Valley Residents Participate in EPA National Study

By Bri Bill, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

In August, nearly 1,000 Fox Valley-area residents joined citizens at 20 cleanup sites nationwide who are being asked by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to fill out a survey or participate in a focus group. The surveys and focus groups will gather information about the effectiveness of EPA's community outreach and involvement efforts associated with the Fox River project.

This work is part of a larger, nationwide initiative called "Assessing the Impact of the Superfund Community Involvement Program," which was designed by EPA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., to comply with the requirements of the federal Governmental Performance and Results Act. The 1993 Act requires all executive branch departments and agencies, including EPA, to develop goals and measure the success at achieving those goals. The purpose of the law, as stated by Congress, is to improve the level of service provided by government and to make government more accountable to the taxpayers.

EPA Headquarters staff is compiling the information gathered from the Fox River surveys and focus groups and combining it with the results of similar work conducted at other sites nationwide to provide an overall picture of how well EPA's community involvement program is doing and how the program can be improved. Results of the Fox River portion of the study will be shared with the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership so that it can improve its public participation activities in the Fox Valley area.

For additional information, please contact Bri Bill, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at (312) 353-6466 or 1-800-621-8431.

Marty McHugh *from page 11*

ago," he said. "Oil spills are easier to work on because information is current and easier to get." With the Lower Fox River, however, "We have to use historical information. The effects are more subtle. We have to tie back injuries we see today to past data to decide what needs to be restored in the future."

The projects also have their similarities. "The Fox is the hardest working river and the New York/New Jersey Harbor was the hardest working harbor," McHugh said. "We now understand that both places are important to people and they can affect Green Bay, Lake Michigan and the Atlantic Ocean."

McHugh, who met his wife, Cheryl, in Chicago while apartment hunting in anticipation of his relocation there and who recently celebrated the birth of his son Martin Jr., explained his role as a representative of NOAA's natural resource trusteeship. "In law, someone is supposed to protect 'the trust' for beneficiaries. If someone robs it, the trustee has to go after them to restore the trust." He continued, "Here, we'll try to make sure people put back what was lost. As stewards for these natural resources in the Fox, we're just getting started."

Clarification

In the July/August issue of the *Fox River Current*, the caption under the photo of the man holding two fish (page 2) mistakenly implied that the walleye were caught in the Fox River. While this species of fish is found in the Lower Fox, those particular fish were caught in Lake Erie.

Information Available at Local Libraries

The Intergovernmental Partners invite the public to review technical reports, fact sheets and other documents related to the Lower Fox River cleanup at information repositories set up in the reference sections of the following local libraries. Information repositories at public libraries in Menasha and Kimberly have been discontinued.

- **Appleton Public Library**, 225 N. Oneida St., Appleton, WI; 920-832-6170
- **Brown County Library**, 515 Pine St., Green Bay, WI; 920-448-4381, ext. 394
- **De Pere Public Library**, 380 Main Ave., DePere, WI; 920-448-4407
- **Door County Library**, 104 S. Fourth Ave., Sturgeon Bay, WI; 920-743-6578
- **Kaukauna Public Library**, 111 Main Ave., Kaukauna, WI; 920-766-6340
- **Little Chute Public Library**, 625 Grand Ave., Little Chute, WI; 920-788-7825
- **Neenah Public Library**, 240 E. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah, WI; 920-751-4722
- **Oneida Community Library**, 201 Elm St., Oneida, WI; 920-869-2210
- **Oshkosh Public Library**, 106 Washington Ave., Oshkosh, WI; 920-236-5200
- **Wrightstown Public Library**, 529 Main St., Wrightstown, WI; 920-532-4011

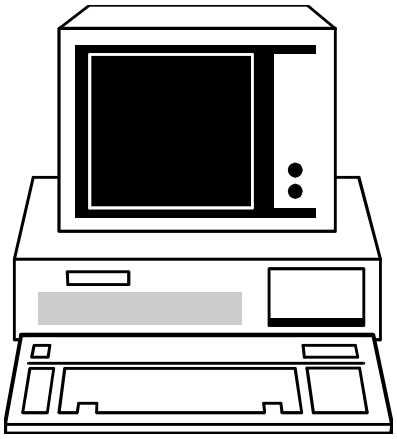
Check out these web sites:

http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/lowerfox/

http://www.epa.gov/region5/foxriver/

http://www.fws.gov/r9dec/nrdar/nrdamain.html

http://www.fws.gov/r3pao/nrda/



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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in these articles are solely those of the authors and are not necessarily shared by all members of the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership.

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